

In the Claims:

Amend the current Claim set so that it conforms to the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a peracid or ~~diacylperoxide~~, characterized in that a mixed anhydride of formula  $R^1[C(O)OC(O)OR^2]_n$  or  $[R^3C(O)OC(O)O]_pR^4$  is contacted with a hydroperoxide of formula  $R^5[OOH]_m$  in the presence of a base, wherein

$R^1$  represents a mono-, di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted  $C_1-C_{19}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$n$  is 1-4,

$R^2$  represents a  $C_1-C_{20}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$R^3$  represents a  $C_1-C_{19}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$R^4$  represents a di-, tri- or tetrasubstituted  $C_1-C_{20}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms,

$p$  is 2-4,

$R^5$  represents hydrogen or a mono- or disubstituted  $C_2-C_{19}$ -tertiary alkyl or  $C_2-C_{20}$  acyl group, in which the ~~tertiary alkyl or acyl~~ group may optionally contain one or more hetero atoms,

$m$  is 1 or 2, and

if  $R^5$  represents hydrogen,  $m$  is 1-7

~~provided that if the hydroperoxide is an  $\alpha,\alpha'$ -dihydroperoxyperoxide, the reaction is not carried out in an inert two-phase solvent system comprising a polar solvent and an apolar solvent.~~

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that n is 1 or 2.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> independently represents a linear or branched C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> aryl group, said alkyl and aryl groups optionally being substituted with a hydroxy group, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group or a halogen atom.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that R<sup>2</sup> represents a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl group or a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> aryl group.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that a mixed anhydride of formula R<sup>1</sup>[C(O)OC(O)OR<sup>2</sup>]<sub>n</sub> is used.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen ~~or a monovalent C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> tertiary alkyl group~~.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the base is an alkali metal hydroxide.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out at a pH of ~~5~~ 4 or higher.

9. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is carried out in the absence of an organic solvent.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the mixed anhydride is prepared by contacting a carboxylic acid of formula  $R^1[C(O)OH]_n$  with a halogen formate of formula  $XC(O)OR^2$  or  $[XC(O)O]_pR^4$  in the presence of a base in an aqueous medium, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $n$ , and  $p$  have the same meaning as defined in claim 1 and  $X$  is a halogen atom.

11. (Original) A process according to claim 10, characterized in that a quaternary ammonium phase transfer or tertiary amine catalyst is present.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A hydroxyperacid obtainable by the process according to claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein  $R^1$  or  $R^3$  represents a  $C_1$ - $C_{19}$  hydrocarbon group, optionally containing one or more hetero atoms, substituted with a hydroxy group,  $n$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $p$  have the meaning defined above,  $R^5$  represents hydrogen, and  $m$  is 1.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a hydroxyperoxide according to Claim 13 in bleaching~~ Bleaching, oxidation, epoxidation, chain transfer, radical (co)polymerization, et or (co)polymer modification reactions that use the hydroxypersulfonic acid of claim 15.